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BOOK REVIEWS.

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The League of Free Nations. By *H. G. Wells*. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1918. 154 p. \$1.25.

Mr. Wells acknowledges his debt to President Wilson for the adjective *free*. No other league than one of *Free Nations* does he find worth fighting for, or different from those now fighting. How to compact the league is another matter; but Mr. Wells wins our heart on page 11 by tossing gracefully into the scrap-basket all carefully numbered, indented, and heavily foot-noted "charters." "Instead of being made like a machine, the League of Nations may come about like a marriage." Representation in the future Peace Congress he recommends to be based on power rather than population or other criterion, and prophesies for that body a "prolonged and persistent" sitting. Diplomatic representatives alone will not suffice, for the common man will have but one thought about this fateful conference: "Somehow, by representative or what not, *I have to be there*." His distrust of your purely diplomatic diplomatist has been fed by the general enlightenment of this war to such proportions that it will not again be mollified with "peace-with-honor" pap. Mr. Wells does not ask a league to enforce arbitration or to enforce neutrality, but he does ask for a league which shall have armaments in its power; otherwise "any malignant country will be free to force upon all the rest just the maximum amount of armament it

chooses to adopt." This is one of the sovereign rights which the nations must throw into the melting pot if the imperishable alloy of peace is to be compounded. The league must be the master of empire, as the Federal Government of the United States of America is the master of State ambitions within its borders. Mr. Wells turns to us, in fact: thirteen States so independent in spirit that they would not brook, and never yet have brooked, a national name; in general, what we have done he would apply to the international problems of tomorrow. Much of the book is devoted to the particular predispositions and misconceptions of which Great Britain must rid itself. It is a book for the moment only, but still an interesting attempt to apply common sense to the possibilities of peace.

League of Nations. By *Theodore Marburg*. The Macmillan Company, New York. 1917. 139 p. 50 cents.

This is a devoted account of the inception and growth of the idea somewhat ambiguously named "League to Enforce Peace." Mr. Marburg explains in the course of his narrative how the original idea of a league of nations to punish infringements of the league's will became modified to that of a league of nations pledged to compel arbitration between its members. It is not explained here, as it has not been explained elsewhere, in what manner this league would avoid being a league to provoke war. The story of the league's growth is an entertaining one, even at this date. It is regrettable, however, that Mr. Marburg should have incorporated in his narrative the false inference that President Wilson supports, or ever has given his support to, the idea of armed enforcement of arbitration.

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